

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method of reducing artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding comprising the steps of:
 - 5 determining block boundaries;
 - determining an approximate metric of artifact visibility;
 - adaptively filtering luminance;
 - adaptively adjusting local saturation variation;
 - adaptively simulating high spatial frequency image detail;
 - 10 wherein the adaptive steps are executed to a degree or an amount dependent on the metric of artifact severity.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein prior to adaptively filtering luminance, luminance values are interpolated across block boundaries
- 15 3. The method of claim 1 wherein in conjunction with adaptively filtering luminance, chrominance is adaptively filtered.
4. The method of claim 2 wherein in conjunction with adaptively filtering luminance, chrominance is adaptively filtered.
- 20 5. A method of reducing artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding comprising the steps of:
 - determining block boundaries;
 - 25 determining an approximate metric of artifact visibility;
 - adaptively filtering luminance with a filter;
 - adaptively increasing local chrominance contrast;
 - adaptively simulating high frequency image detail by means of sharpening and addition of noise;
 - 30 wherein the adaptive steps are executed to degree that depends on the metric of artifact visibility.

15. A method of reducing artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding comprising the step of selecting a median filter window based on an assessment of a pixel value according to a variance of a binary mask.

5 16. The method of claim 1 wherein the pixel value comprises luminance texture.

17. A method of reducing artifacts in an image comprising the step of selecting a median filter window based on an assessment of a pixel value according to a variance of a binary mask.

10

18. A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 1.

15 19. A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 2.

20. A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 5.

20 21. A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 8.

22. A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 10.

25

23. A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 15.

30